



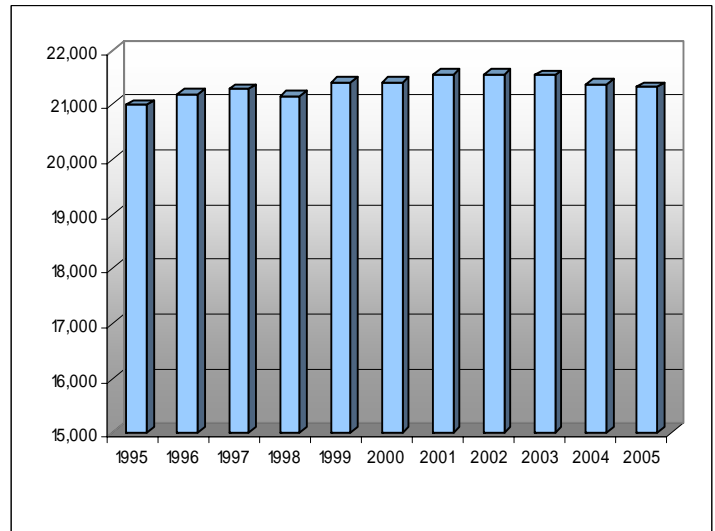
CASSIA COUNTY PROFILE

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June 2006

Population

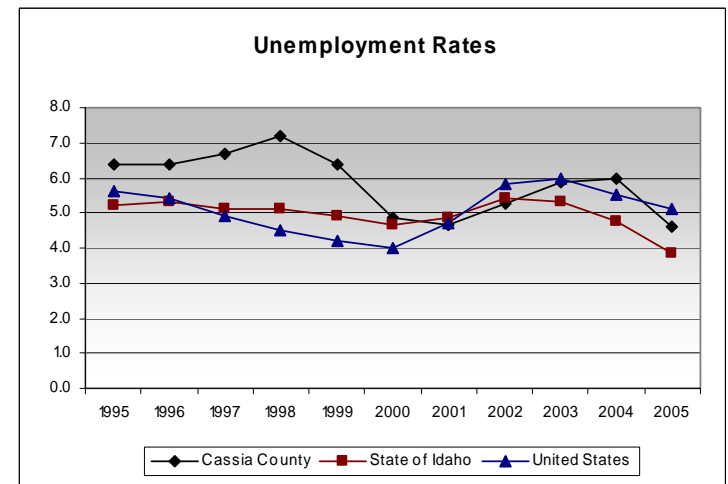
Cassia County has experienced slow growth over the last ten years. The population has risen from 20,996 in 1995 to 21,324 in 2005, an increase of only 1.6 percent. The population has decreased yearly since 2002. The reason for the population decrease is that the area is heavily dependent on agriculture and many of the jobs opportunities have vanished. During 2006 several new businesses has announced plans to locate in the area, which should not only provide needed jobs opportunities but to help diversified the economy. The area has abundant natural resources and recreational opportunities. Burley is located on the Snake River and it is a short distance to the City of Rocks and the Pomerelle Ski Resort.



Labor Force & Employment

Cassia County traditionally has had a much higher unemployment rate than the rest of South Central Idaho. In the last ten years, the unemployment rate reached a peak high of 7.2 percent in 1998 and a low of 4.6 percent in 2005. The area is heavily dependent upon food processing and those industries have frequent maintenance layoffs. The future for the Cassia area in regards to unemployment is challenging. In May 2002, the J.R. Simplot Company announced the closure of its plant in nearby Heyburn in Minidoka County. Also the Kmart store in Burley closed permanently in May 2002, displacing over 75 workers. The result of these closures increased the unemployment rate to 6.0 percent in 2004.

One bright spot is that Wal-Mart is expanding its existing Burley store into a "supercenter," adding

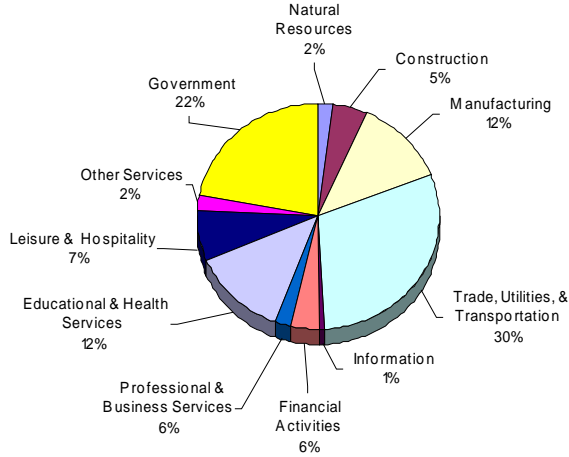


approximately 200 jobs in 2003 when the remodeling is complete. Cassia County is designated at a Federal Labor Surplus Area by the United States government. The area has some excellent attributes such as a great workforce, good access to major transportation, and excellent training facilities in the College of Southern Idaho and the Cassia Regional Technical Center. Economic development efforts are underway in an effort to create new jobs for the area.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	10,286	10,713
Total Employment	9,760	10,275
Unemployed	526	438
Cassia County % Unemployed	5.1	4.1
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	9,545	9,793	9,501	9,631	9,671	10,277	10,303	10,004	9,931	9,836	10,160
Unemployment	612	622	634	690	618	502	480	529	585	586	466
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.4	6.4	6.7	7.2	6.4	4.9	4.7	5.3	5.9	6.0	4.6
Employment	8,933	9,171	8,867	8,941	9,053	9,775	9,823	9,474	9,346	9,250	9,694

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



Wages & Income

Wages have been traditionally low in Cassia County. Most jobs are either in agriculture, food processing, retail, or services sectors. Per capita income has increased from \$17,712 in 1995 to \$24,733 in 2004, an increase of 40 percent. Cassia County ranks 13th out of Idaho's 44 counties with regard to per capita income.

Major Employers

Cassia Regional Medical Center
McCains
Burley School District
Smith's Food and Drug Center
City of Burley
Cassia County
Wal-Mart

Occupational Wages*

Average Wage

Teachers	\$14.82
Social Workers	\$14.87
Registered Nurses	\$17.13
Dental Assistants	\$10.47
Secretary/Receptionists	\$8.38
Telemarketers	\$7.19
Bookkeepers	\$9.04
Cashiers	\$6.07
Waiters/Waitresses	\$5.53
Food Processors	\$9.96
Landscapers	\$8.54
Forklift Operators	\$9.59
Maintenance Mechanics	\$12.20
General Farm Labor	\$6.34

* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Department of Labor Web site at <http://www.jobservice.us/lmi/wage-survey/owsmainmenu.htm>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	7,873	\$18,111	8,929	\$22,780	8,611	\$23,661
Agriculture	839	\$14,967	1,204	\$20,666	1,187	\$21,108
Mining	84	\$30,603	108	\$32,152	151	\$27,846
Construction	357	\$21,772	378	\$25,045	347	\$25,202
Manufacturing	1,179	\$24,304	1,044	\$29,166	924	\$34,717
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	2,017	\$17,033	2,304	\$21,744	2,257	\$21,819
Information	115	\$16,792	136	\$26,373	59	\$43,389
Financial Activities	248	\$20,615	270	\$30,488	274	\$31,640
Professional and Business Services	158	\$15,074	199	\$14,793	166	\$19,069
Educational and Health Services	731	\$17,799	978	\$21,222	946	\$21,401
Leisure and Hospitality	535	\$6,208	569	\$8,989	542	\$8,568
Other Services	207	\$12,838	136	\$15,389	141	\$15,687
Government	1,404	\$20,143	1,603	\$26,399	1,616	\$26,550

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Cassia County	\$17,712	\$19,499	\$18,986	\$20,744	\$21,845	\$21,575	\$23,095	\$23,066	\$23,068	\$24,733
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office located at the address below:
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